

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

Wednesday, October 1, 2025
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4-H to hold hay bale decorating contest

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H has announced the inaugural hay bale decorating contest. The hay bales will be placed at the former Pike County Hospital in Murfreesboro. Interested participants are asked to contact (870) 285-2161 to enter. There is a \$25 entry fee for each bale. The deadline to enter is Monday, Sept. 30, with the contest starting on Tuesday, Oct. 1. Participants must have their hay bale decorated by Thursday, Oct. 3. The bales will be judged on Friday, Oct. 4. Prizes will be awarded to winning bales -- individuals, businesses, and/or clubs can enter. All proceeds from the event will go to the Pike County 4-H program.

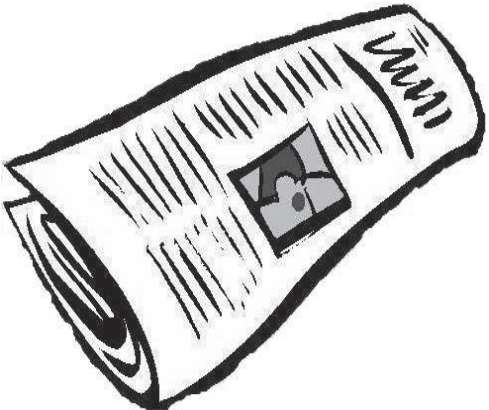
MHS mini cheer camp approaches

MURFREESBORO -- The annual Mini Cheer Camp is rapidly approaching, with camp practices to be held October 6-8 after school until 4:30 p.m. Campers will get to perform at the pep rally and during halftime of the MHS football game against Dierks on Friday, Oct. 10. The camp will cost \$35 per students (includes camp fee, t-shirt, cheer bow, and game admission for the cheerleader). Students may sign up for the camp at <https://forms.gle/uF9KKvXyjZ7HGmUF9>



MES sets 'Rattler Run' for later this month

MURFREESBORO -- Murfreesboro Elementary School will be holding the third annual Rattler Run this year for their fall fundraiser. Students raise money to participate in different events at different levels during that day, including the color run, obstacle course, slime the principal, and many more. The top collecting student will also get to be the school principal for the day. All students may participate in the medal run if they register online (no money required). "We will be raising money to continue field trips and incentive trips for the year, and to add on to playground equipment and games," said MES principal James Riley. Donations will be due on October 23, and the Rattler Run will be held on October 27. Family members are welcome to the event to cheer on runners and participate in the color run.



DO YOU KNOW
SOMETHING
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Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information



Staff Photo

WISH GRANTED ... Make-A-Wish participant Madison Mansfield and family were recognized by the City of Murfreesboro during the 11-year-old's trip to Murfreesboro to visit the Crater of Diamonds. The city issued a proclamation that declared her "our special friend and an honorable person" and set Madison Avery Mansfield Day on Monday, Sept. 29. In addition to the trip to the Crater, the family had lunch at Coffee Connections, visited Ka-Do-Ha Indiana Village and Dino Dig and finished with ice cream at Hawkins' Variety Store. Pictured are (L to R) Chamber of Commerce president Lisa Harvill, Tourism Commission representative Jane Fugitt, Murfreesboro mayor Jim O'Neal, Tiffany Mansfield, Madison Mansfield and Clayton Wood and Crater of Diamonds superintendent Caleb Howell.

Rattlers fall to Go-Devils at home, set for Gators

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers (2-2, 0-1) dropped their first conference game of the season 48-22 to the visiting Gurdon Go-Devils (2-2, 1-0) last Friday night. Head coach Jay Turley said the team was simply "not ready" to play the game and it showed in their performance. MHS trailed Gurdon 21-8 at halftime, with the touchdown coming on a long kickoff return by Alex Parker. "We thought we could just walk on the field and beat Gurdon, and we simply were not mentally prepared or focused for the game. I could see that [Gurdon] had that look in their eyes when they got off the bus -- and we didn't. Gurdon is a tradition rich school and has pride about what they do." He said that the offense was generally able to move the ball, but that penalties and turnovers constantly killed any momentum and positive drives. "They hit us in the mouth and we simply didn't respond. This should be a wake-up call and a learning lesson for us going forward." Turley added that while changes were needed, it was not the time to get extreme over a single bad performance. "It's just one conference loss ... one game. It's not the time to panic ... but we cannot look forward to another game, to winning the conference, to the playoffs ... we have to focus on this week and this week alone. You have to respect every team you play and fear no one." He said this week the team would see some changes in their approach, both in preparing for the game in practice over the week, but also their mental approach on Friday's gameday. "We have to remove distractions and get refocused," Turley said simply.

AT FOREMAN
This week the team will travel to Foreman to take on the Gators (2-2, 0-1). Foreman has alternated win and losses this season, beating Parkers Chapel 38-16 in week one and Horatio 34-14 in week three. Their losses have been at Hampton 38-14 in week two and at home versus Junction City 43-6 last week. Turley said that the Gators are a much improved team over the past couple of years that saw them as the conference's doormat. "They are in the second year with coach [Edwin] Baker -- after changing coaches year after year there for a while, they now have stability and it's showing. They have figured out their identity and it is showing. They play very hard for coach Baker." He said they gave Junction City a much better game than the score indicated. "They were able to move the ball against Junction City ... but the

[Dragons] finally got the best of them." Turley said the Gators employ a disciplined offense that features the flexbone, with a big fullback that is hard to bring down and a quarterback that makes the team go. "We just have to refocus -- this week I'd look forward to playing anyone after last week's result. We have to get that mentality that we are going to be ready for who we play, no matter their record. Good football teams take all opponents seriously, gameplanning and practicing all week with urgency all week. Mentally we have to be there -- we have to play disciplined team football in order to win. We don't have enough superior athletes to just go out there and out-athlete most teams."



Staff photo

TOUCHDOWN ... Alex Parker (34) is pictured returning a kickoff for a touchdown in last week's game versus Gurdon.

School board told of state's letter grade for MHS

MURFREESBORO -- The South Pike County School Board met on Tuesday, Sept. 23 and opened with a comment period that is open to the public. Local resident Matthew Humphry used his time to discuss a recent issue at school -- a teacher's comments -- that made its way to social media. He asked why the school district labeled a situation as inaccurate and asked why it had been put out there, stating that it made his child appear to be lying. The public speaking period does not allow for students or district employees to be named directly. In her superintendent's report, Tanya Wilcher told the board that the school was live streaming games through hudl.com [subscription required] that currently includes football and basketball. They hope to add baseball and softball games to the slate if a reasonably priced wifi option can be installed at the ballfields before the season. The board approved quarterly payments from HUDL. She credited Diamond Bank with helping partner to build batting cages at the baseball/softball complex and said the school had qualified for e-rate funding, which would make the \$130,000 project cost \$112,892. She also credited local law enforcement with "really stepping up" during the recent social media fiasco that saw a student make veiled threats against the school. High School principal Davey Jones begrudgingly confessed to the board that Centerpoint (B) had a better letter grade from the state Department of Education than Murfreesboro (C) did this year.

He said there were three main factors that go into the grade -- graduation rate, concurrent credit courses taken by students as well as standardized test scores. Jones said last year only seven student participated in concurrent college credit classes -- something that "comes and goes" year to year. He said that this year will feature a much larger number. He also has mixed emotions at the graduation rate calculation -- with Murfreesboro holding "what appears to be a terrible" 92% for the class of 2025. He explained that students that leave the district but never enroll at another school count against the original district. "We can't stop them from moving." "We are scored on kids that no longer attend

SCHOOL BOARD Continued on Page 2

Local woman cited with misdemeanor case involving youth

MURFREESBORO -- A misdemeanor case in Pike County District Court involving a 33-year-old woman who messaged an 11-year-old boy is now under advisement following a Sept. 18 court date.

Alahna Mary O’Connell, 33, of Mablevale, was cited with contributing to the delinquency of a minor in June. During her court date, O’Connell, with her attorney Brent A. Miller, entered a plea agreement on the charge and she was ordered to pay a \$350 fine and a no-contact order was issued for her minor victim.

The misdemeanor charge is now under advisement for one year after which time the charge can be dismissed if O’Connell adheres to lawful conduct conditions,

according to the Pike County District Clerk’s office.

According to a Feb. 8 incident report filed on the case by Pike County Investigator Jason McDonald, an investigation into O’Connell began on Feb. 7 when a mother told McDonald she had discovered messages between her young son and O’Connell that dated back to November 2024.

The mother said that despite her efforts to block internet access and prevent the downloading of apps on her son’s phone, the boy had downloaded Snapchat on a relative’s iPad. The relative reported seeing a message between the boy and O’Connell which allegedly included a

picture of O’Connell in a tanning bed with the caption “would be a tight squeeze in here.”

McDonald noted that a review of screenshots showed “several inappropriate conversations” and the mother claimed O’Connell was also messaging other underage boys. McDonald said the claim is “unknown due to Snapchat’s deletion feature.”

“Based on the nature of the messages sent to (the son), there is a possibility that the other messages could be inappropriate or sexual on Snapchat due to her son hiding the amount from his parent.”

Obituaries

Frances Lewallen, 87, Delight



Frances Lewallen, age 87, of Delight, Arkansas passed away on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. She was born July 21, 1938 in Murfreesboro, Arkansas the daughter of the late Lemmer and Lucy Whisenhunt Lockeby.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Bill Lewallen, a daughter, Fran Denise Lewallen, one brother, Carlos Lockeby, and two sisters, Marie Mc-

Bride and Fannie Stone.

Survivors include one son, Flip Lewallen of Delight; one daughter, Susan Scroggins of Delight; two sisters, Ruby Loy of Benton, Martha Gentry of Antoine, AR; grandchildren, DeMarco Scroggins, Brooke Oliver, Nika Scroggins, Britney Shepard, Brandie Golden; great-grandchildren, Jacoby, Mari, Jaidah, Charles, Bryson, Apollo, Loyalty, Llevyn, Khozen, Rustyn, Rylan, Jayde, Emmie, Harper, Layla, Owen, Evelyn, Addison, and Emmett.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, September 27, at Delight church of Christ, with burial following in the Delight Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

You may send a online sympathy message at www.latimerfuneralhome.com

Animal control on hold for six cities until further notice

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

NASHVILLE -- Animal control services for six area southwest Arkansas towns are currently on hold following the abrupt resignation of Nashville Animal Control Officer Seborn Gregory, who has been with the service since it began in 1998.

As of Sept. 24, the day after Gregory submitted his resignation to Nashville Mayor Larry Dunaway, no animals have been taken in at the pound, and it will remain that way, until further notice.

Nashville Animal Control also has contracts for services in Dierks, Murfreesboro, Mineral Springs, Washington and Prescott. Mayor Dunaway notified the mayors of those cities about Gregory’s resignation via email which stated work was underway to take care of and get the remaining animals at the pound “adopted out as quickly as possible.”

Dunaway also informed the cities, “I will ask that you hold payment to the City of Nashville beginning with the October payment until we are able to resume normal operations.”

The current annual contract amounts paid to Nashville by the cities includes:

- Nashville \$57,644
 - Prescott \$43,042
 - Murfreesboro \$20,750
 - Mineral Springs \$15,060
 - Dierks \$12,714
 - Washington \$3,150
- The city contracts help fund the two-person animal control operation, including the salary of Gregory and longtime co-employee Suzanne Gaithright, who was hired soon after Gregory in January 1998 and will remain with the shelter “at this point in time,” said the mayor.

Mayor Dunaway added that he “hates the way it happened” with Gregory’s departure and noted that Gregory had been “involved in every nut and screw” during construction of the shelter, its completion and operation, and was also nearing the retirement mark of his career. “He’s always been there for us.”

The City of Nashville is currently advertising for the open position. Interested applicants can call the Mayor’s Office at (870) 845-7400.

Gregory’s resignation came on the heels of a Nashville City Council meeting held Monday, Sept. 22 when about 30 members of Southwest Arkansas PAWS showed up with offers to volunteer at the pound and a list of recommendations on how to

cut down on or slow the pound’s current euthanasia rate. SWA PAWS is a new organization in Nashville that formed after its members learned that more than 82 percent of the animals that had been taken in at Nashville Animal Control during 2024 had been euthanized.

Mayor Dunaway said any work currently taking place at the shelter is being handled by Gaithright and several SWA PAWS volunteers.

SWA PAWS, which encourages people to “adopt rather than shop” for their pets, is also currently fundraising to provide free or low cost spay or neuter clinics.

Circuit Clerk seeks reelection

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County Circuit Clerk Sabrina Williams has announced her intention seek the same position in the next election cycle.

“I would like to announce that I will be seeking re-election for a fifth term as your Pike County Circuit Clerk. Serving the citizens of Pike County has been, and will always be, a privilege,” said Williams.

She said over the course time in office the Circuit Clerk’s Office has seen significant improvements, including implementation of an electronic court management filing system and an electronic recording system for deeds and mortgages -- both of which have streamlined processes, reduced costs, and increased efficiency for the office and the public.

In addition, Williams successfully secured \$57,525.00 in grants from the Association of Arkansas Counties Automated Records Systems Fund. These funds have allowed us to scan and index historical land records and to establish our current recording system, ensuring better access and preservation of important records for generations to come.

“Looking ahead, I remain committed to seeking new opportunities and innovations that will enhance the services of the Circuit Clerk’s Office. My dedication to serving the people of Pike County is unwavering, and I humbly ask for your continued trust and support as I seek re-election,” said Williams.



SABRINA WILLIAMS Submitted photo

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UAMS

HOUSE CALL

Dr. Amber Norris is an assistant professor in the UAMS Department of Family and Preventive Medicine who treats patients at UAMS East Regional Campus in Helena.

Q: How common is breast cancer?

A: The National Cancer Institute (NCI) estimates there will be more than 315,000 new cases of breast cancer in the U.S. in 2025. Breast cancer is the second-most diagnosed cancer in women behind skin cancer. The five-year breast cancer survival rate is 92%, according to the NCI. Approximately 13% of women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.

Age and family history are strong indicators in determining breast cancer risk. It is typically diagnosed in women between the ages of 45 and 74. A woman who has a close relative (mother, daughter, sister) who has had breast or ovarian cancer is at higher risk of developing the disease.

Breast cancer symptoms may include a lump, a change in breast size and shape, thickening

or swelling in part of the breast, or pain in any part of the breast. A physician may order a mammogram, MRI or an ultrasound as part of an examination.

The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends that women get screening mammograms every other year, from ages 40 to 74, while The American College of Radiology, The Society of Breast Imaging and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network recommend that women with an average risk for breast cancer start annual screening at age 40.

Contact your health care provider if you notice symptoms.

Card of Thanks

The Bowen Baptist Church would like to thank the community for the unbelievable support and encouragement for our yard sale.

Whether you donated items or came to the sale and bought, it was greatly appreciated!

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

Blessed are the givers and grateful are the receivers!

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Cruising thru The Change: Menopause The Musical in Branson

January 17-18, 2026 • 2 days/1 night • \$299

Arkansas at Globelife: College Baseball Series

February 13-15, 2026 • 3 days/ 2 nights • \$595

VIP Mardi Gras Lafayette

February 16-18, 2026 • 3 days/2 nights • \$535

Smoky Mountain Spring

April 12-16, 2026 • 5 days/ 4 nights • \$950

Great Gatsby Tour: Mobsters, Mansions and Murder

April 13-16, 2026 • 4 days/ 3 nights • \$995

Washington DC: America's 250th Birthday Bash Exclusive Event

June 29-July 7, 2026 • 9 days/8 nights • \$3695

Best of Pacific Northwest: Crater Lake National Park, Olympic National Park, Mt Rainer National Park, Mount St Helens, Mt Rushmore

July 15-30, 2026 • 15 days/14 nights • \$3550

Price based on double occupancy per person & includes all transportation, hotels/cruises, many meals, all admissions & all taxes. In-route pick ups available.

PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS
BY RICK FLOYD

Super Harvest Moon set for early in October, a relative rarity

The Moon is the headliner of the early October night sky. Saturday, Oct. 4 is “International Observe the Moon” night, and the Moon will be about 98 % full then. We will have a full moon a few days later on Tuesday, Oct. 7.

There are other special things lunar this month. Usually, the Harvest Moon occurs in September, but every three to five years it happens in October. The Harvest Moon is the full moon nearest in time to autumnal equinox. This year the Moon in October is 14 hours and 39 minutes closer to the equinox than the full moon of September was. The last time Harvest Moon occurred in October was in 2020 and the next time will be in 2028.

The Moon’s orbit has brought it closer to the Earth, so it will loom larger and be brighter than average. The Farmer’s Almanac is all out, calling it a Super Moon.

Normally the Moon rises about 50 minutes later each evening than it did the night before, but this time of year, due to orbital dynamics, the Moon will rise each night in about half that time. This means we will have a full moon and very near full moons on a succession of evenings (from Oct. 5-8) at or near sunset. The rising moons will appear large, bright and most likely of an orange hue.

When the full October moon is not in the role of Harvest Moon, it is called the Hunter’s Moon or the Blood Moon.

It seems we may be able to see a duo of comets later this month. More information will be available next week.

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Tis the season for cooking with fresh pumpkins this fall

This season, try experimenting with pumpkin in new and creative ways, from baking and blending to roasting. They are healthy, hearty, and full of flavor. Packed with nutrients and fiber, pumpkin can be used in everything from soups to baked goods. And don't toss the seeds! Roasted pumpkin seeds make a delicious, crunchy snack full of protein, iron, and fiber. Just clean, dry, season, and roast them for a healthy treat that's perfect for lunch boxes or snacking by the handful.

Rich in nutrients and surprisingly low in calories, just a half-cup of canned pumpkin provides 4 grams of fiber, no fat or cholesterol, and only 50 calories. Even better, that small serving delivers your entire daily requirement of vitamin A, thanks to its high beta-carotene content. Beta-carotene is a powerful antioxidant that supports eye health, a strong immune system. Pumpkins are also a good source of vitamins B and C, potassium, iron, and even a bit of protein.

When choosing a pumpkin for cooking, size and type matter. Smaller varieties like pie or sweet pumpkins are your best bet. They have

a sweeter flavor and less watery flesh. These are ideal for baking, cooking, or pureeing. Save the big Jack-O'-Lantern pumpkins for decorating; they aren't recommended for eating once carved and left outside.

To prepare fresh pumpkin puree, peel and cube your pumpkin, then steam or bake it until tender. Puree the flesh in a blender or mash it by hand. You can also purchase canned pumpkin for convenience, just make sure to read the label carefully and choose plain pumpkin, not the pre-sweetened pie filling.

Pumpkin isn't just for pie. It adds flavor, moisture, and nutrition to muffins, cookies, breads, soups, dips, and more. Thanks to its natural sweetness and fiber content, it's also great in healthier recipes that still taste indulgent.

If you plan to harvest seeds from a fresh pumpkin, start by selecting a firm, mature pumpkin with no soft spots or blemishes. Cut the pumpkin in half and use a large spoon or your hands to scoop out the seeds from the center cavity. The seeds will be surrounded by stringy pulp. To separate them, place the mix-



PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

EVA LANGLEY, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT

FAMILY • NUTRITION • FOOD SAFETY • FINANCE • FITNESS & HEALTH

ture in a bowl of cool water and gently loosen the seeds with your fingers. The seeds will float, making it easier to separate them from the pulp. Once separated, drain the seeds and pat them dry with a paper towel.

To roast your pumpkin seeds, spread the clean, dry seeds in a single layer on a baking sheet. Add a light drizzle of oil and sprinkle with your favorite seasonings—such as sea salt, garlic powder, chili, or cinnamon sugar. Roast in a 300°F oven for about 20 to 30 minutes, stirring occasionally, until golden and crispy. Roasted pumpkin seeds are easy to make and endlessly customizable, making them a healthy and satisfying fall snack. Enjoy!

RECIPE OF THE WEEK:

CINNAMON-SUGAR ROASTED PUMPKIN SEEDS
Ingredients:
1 1/2 cups pumpkin seeds, rinsed and patted dry with paper towels
2 tablespoons butter, melted
2 tablespoons sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

Heat oven to 325°F.
In small bowl, mix all ingredients. Spread on ungreased cookie sheet in single layer.
Bake about 20 minutes, stirring once or twice, until seeds begin to brown.
Let cool and serve, or store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to two weeks

King enters ‘not guilty’ plea to charges of second-degree murder

MURFREESBORO -- A Pike County man charged with second-degree murder for the shooting death of Daniel Cain Lamb, 44, of Delight, on June 18 entered a “not guilty” plea Monday.

Gage Allan King, 23, of Murfreesboro, was charged Sept. 18 in Pike County Circuit Court and entered his plea Monday in Pike County

Circuit Court. A Nov. 3 pretrial date was set but first King will return to court on Oct. 6 for a possible bond increase. King was initially expected to charged with manslaughter in the shooting.

Also Monday in Pike County court , Danny Golden, 60, of Glenwood, plead guilty to the amended charge of possession of a firearm by

certain persons and was fined \$2,500 plus court cost and placed on six years of probation.

Jakob Reppo, 38, of Glenwood, also plead guilty Monday to possession of a controlled substance and was sentenced to six years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) with three years suspended.

CHARGES FILED SEPT. 26
Brandy Rose Balderson, 52, of Glenwood,

charged with possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

Misty M. Williamson, 39, of Bismarck, charged with nonsupport.

Dakota Welch, 27, of Glenwood, charged with possession of controlled substance and furnishing prohibited articles.

Leah Ann Ransom, 24, of Glenwood, charged with forgery and theft of property.

CHI offers free internet to patients

MURFREESBORO -- A grant is providing all rural CHI Health community members with free internet through June of next year

Last Mile Connect Care is providing high speed internet at no cost to any person who has even been a client with CHI St. Vincent or any of the other CHI properties. The in-home 5G or 4G broadband connectivity is provided at no cost.

The program is funded with support from the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide broadband connectivity and equipment to rural, Tribal and underserved areas nationwide via the T-Mobile network.

The Last Mile Connect Care pilot program

is a partnership between CommonSpirit/CHI Health, First Choice Integrations, All Ways Wireless and T-Mobile aiming to deliver essential healthcare to individuals at home.

Participants will have the option to discontinue service at the end of June 2026 (or later if the grant is extended) or can subscribe to a monthly plan with T-Mobile to continue service. The provided router is free of charge and will not need to be returned.

Following a completed application process, a router will be shipped directly to the applicant's home address.

For more information, visit www.lastmile-connect.care.

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

All letters to the editor must be signed, along with a phone number (that will not be published) provided for confirmation purposes. The Murfreesboro Diamond reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Letters must not be libelous or contain any profanities.

Send letters to P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 or email to mdiamond.editor@windstream.net

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU			
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2			
Breakfast: French toast sticks or cereal, fruit, juice, milk			
Lunch: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, black eyed peas, cornbread muffin, applesauce, milk			
7-12 line 2 option- Chicken fried steak w/ gravy			
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3			
Breakfast: Chocolate muffin or cereal, fruit, juice, milk			
Lunch: Vegetable soup, steamed broccoli, grilled cheese sandwich, pears, milk			
7-12 line 2 option- Big Daddy pizza			
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6			
Breakfast: Mini pancakes or cereal, fruit, juice, milk			
Lunch: Chicken spaghetti, seasoned carrots, green beans, garlic toast, applesauce, milk			
7-12 line 2 option- Popcorn chicken			
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7			
Breakfast: Breakfast pizza or cereal, fruit, juice, milk			
Lunch: Cheeseburger, sidewinder fries, lettuce, tomato, 7-12 onion & pickle slices, mixed fruit, milk			
7-12 line 2 option-Spicy chicken sandwich			
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8			
Breakfast: Chicken biscuit or cereal, fruit, juice, milk			
Lunch: Chicken tenders, mashed potatoes, 7-12 brown gravy, steamed broccoli, whole grain roll, tropical fruit, milk			
7-12 line 2 option- Beef fingers			
<i>*Due to food item shortages menus are subject to change without notice. Any changes to the menu will be posted on the website at www.rattlers.org</i>			
MONDAY, OCT. 6			
BBQ pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, chips, hot spiced apples			
TUESDAY, OCT. 7			
Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, roll, peaches & cream			
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 8			
Chicken breast, black eyed peas, okra cornbread, pumpkin spice blondies			
<i>Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. For more information (870) 285-2312. Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 a.m. Carry out is now available for \$6.00</i>			

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

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- Facebook services on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.

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Facts About The BIBLE

BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

SEND TO THIS ABRAM, JEWELS, AND WINES, AND MANY SERVANTS, SHEEP, OXEN, AND CAMELS!

ABRAM-IN-EGYPT

PHARAOH HAS NOW HEARD FROM HIS PRINCES OF THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN OF THE EAST, A SISTER, HE IS TOLD, OF ABRAM, TO WHOM HE MUST GIVE MANY GIFTS, IF HE IS TO POSSES THIS RARE PRIZE....

FOR THE WOMAN, THIS BEAUTIFUL SISTER OF HIS, MUST BE MINE!

...AND ABRAM SITS IN HIS TENT, DESOLATELY, FOR AN INNER SENSE TELLS HIM, ALL HE HAS FEARED WILL SURELY COME TO PASS!

AND IN A SHORT WHILE, HIS REVERIE IS DISTURBED....

I HEAR A GREAT NOISE!

...AS PHARAOH'S GIFTS COME TRUDGING INTO HIS CAMP, I A SPLENDID CARAVAN OF ALL THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR WEALTH IN THESE ANCIENT TIMES—MORE POSSESSIONS THAN ABRAM HAS EVER SEEN!

JOHN LEHTI

Next Week ABRAM'S DECISION!

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

Murfreesboro church of Christ

305 S. Second Ave.

Sun. Bible Study 9:30 • Worship 10:20

Sun. eve. 6 p.m. • Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

Radio Broadcast B99.5 @ 8:30 a.m.

Bro. Buddy Ray

Attend Church This Sunday!

HAVE AN ITEM YOU'D LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED?

email us at

mdiamond@windstream.net

Grocery store progressing

MURFREESBORO -- Local businessman Jack Bonds shared an update on the future Chimney Rock grocery store last week.

He said that the inside demolition had been completed and that construction of the inside of the building was now underway.

“The tear down is done and the build is on ... it’s definitely coming along.”

Projects currently ongoing include reroofing the building, polishing the floor and painting inside.

Framing is currently ongoing for the back wall, and walk-in coolers have been ordered.

The meat room is currently under construction, and a sign is being ordered.

“This is over 10,000 square feet and there will be nothing small or quaint about it,” said Bonds, who pledged fair, good pricing with no added percentages at the check-out line.

Bonds said the store could be open optimistically by the turn of 2026 if everything happened perfectly, but that a date later into the year -- March perhaps -- was more realistic.

He said the store will feature rotisserie chicken, fresh baked goods, a full meat market with butcher and a full produce section.

“This will be one of the nicer stores in the area -- perhaps in all of southwest Arkansas,” Bonds concluded.

Bonds said he is seeking old pictures of the Piggly Wiggly store from its heyday or pictures of any grocery store in Murfreesboro to help the store connect the town’s past to its future. Should anyone have pictures they would be willing to share, they are asked to bring them to the Gypsy Underground Flea Market in Murfreesboro.



Submitted Photo

ONWARD AND UPWARD ... Walls were being constructed last week at the future site of Chimney Rock Grocery in Murfreesboro.

State releases letter grades for school districts

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW
Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – The state Department of Education has released letter grades for all public schools in Arkansas. They can be found on the Department’s web site.

The Internet address for the school report cards is quite lengthy. Perhaps the simplest way to access them is to conduct a search for “Arkansas school letter grades 2025.”

Here is the address of the web page: <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/public-school-accountability/school-performance/school-letter-grade>.

The letter grades were given to 1,032 schools in Arkansas and 352, about a third, were given a “C” while 291 received a “B.”

A total of 122 schools received an “A,” 137 received a “D” and 130 received an “F.”

The grades of elementary and middle schools were based on three categories. The first is the percentages of students who scored at proficient or better on standardized tests in English, math and science. The second category measured how much students’ test scores had improved in those three subjects. The third category measured improvement by students at the bot-

tom fourth of the rankings.

Those three categories were also used to grade high schools, along with a fourth category that measured the percentage of graduates and the percentage of graduates who went on to college, the military or employment. When an official of the Education Department appeared before a legislative committee in August, she was asked if the diversity of the population within a school district affected how its grades were calculated. The official said it did not.

Department officials were careful to ensure that measures of student growth did not correlate to any particular demographic, she said. It should fairly allow districts to demonstrate academic growth no matter what the socio-economic breakdown of their student population.

Two-thirds of elementary and middle school ratings will be based on the extent to which students are meeting their individualized growth targets each year. More than a third of high school ratings will be based on individual student growth.

The formula for calculating this year’s school letter grades is new, and education officials say it allows parents to better draw comparisons among different public schools. One

reason the Education Department devised a new system of letter grades for schools is that students are taking different standardized tests than previously.

Also, the Education Secretary said some superintendents had concerns that the old system of school report cards did not accurately reflect what was being achieved in their schools.

Letter grades enhance school choice for parents by allowing them to compare schools. They also enable educators to identify areas that need support, with the ultimate goal of not having a school that fails.

Since the spring of 2024 students have been taking the Arkansas Teaching, Learning & Assessment System (ATLAS). Earlier this year the legislature approved Act 474 instructing educators to change the accountability system so that it aligns with the LEARNS Act and with new student standardized testing.

The LEARNS Act was passed in 2023. It’s a broad reform of public school financing and academic standards which, among many other things, raised teacher salaries and expanded literacy programs.



Staff photos

MUSICAL CELEBRATION ... Makina Hudgins (left) and Clark Campbell (right) were among several acts to perform at Delight during last Saturday’s Delight Music Fest.

Montgomery County EHC announces dates for quilt show

MOUNT IDA -- The Montgomery County Extension Homemakers are proud to present the 45th Annual Montgomery County Quilt Show, set to take place October 10–11 at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Mount Ida.

This long-standing community event draws visitors from across the region to admire more than 100 quilts, ranging from treasured family heirlooms and antique pieces to bold, modern designs. Quilts will be judged by local officials and business owners, and several will be available for purchase.

In addition to the quilt displays, visitors can browse a country store-style flea market featuring baked goods, quilting supplies, handmade items, and other unique finds. Attendees can also purchase tickets for a chance to win this year’s raffle quilt—a beautifully crafted piece that will be awarded to one lucky winner at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Proceeds from the raffle and sales go toward local service projects supported by the Extension Homemakers.

“We’re thrilled to continue this tradition,” said Karalee Black of the Montgomery County Extension Office. “It’s a wonderful way to celebrate quilting as an art form while supporting the community.” This year we will honor Cathy Stucker, Cathy made significant contributions to quilting in Montgomery County, Arkansas, through her involvement in local quilt shows and the Montgomery County Quilt Trail.

The weekend in Mount Ida will be especially festive, as the annual Sorghum Festival will also be held Saturday, October 11, at the Heritage House Museum, offering even more for visitors to enjoy.

EVENT SCHEDULE:

- Wednesday, October 8: Quilt check-in from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the Annex Building.
- Thursday, October 9: Quilt check-in continues from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Fairgrounds. Judging will take place from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Friday & Saturday, October 10–11: Quilt show open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 11: Raffle quilt drawing at 4:00 p.m. (winner will be contacted if not present); quilt check-out begins at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the Montgomery County Extension Office at (870) 867-2311.



Staff photo

HOMEcoming PARADE ... After being cancelled due to weather the week previous, the MHS marching band led the homecoming parade through the streets of Murfreesboro last Friday afternoon.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Borrower: Karen DeAnn White and Cecil Roy White, Jr., wife and husband

Lender: Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc.

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND INTENTION TO SELL.

YOU MAY LOSE YOUR PROPERTY IF YOU DO NOT TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION.

IF YOUR PROPERTY IS SOLD YOU WILL REMAIN LIABLE FOR ANY DEFICIENCY AND AN ACTION FOR COLLECTION MAY BE BROUGHT AGAINST YOU.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR AND IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION GIVEN MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on October 21, 2025, at or about 10:00 a.m., the following real property will be sold at the main / front door of the Pike County Courthouse, located at 1 Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro, Arkansas 71958, to the highest bidder for cash:

PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER SECTION TWO (2), TOWNSHIP NINE (9) SOUTH, RANGE TWENTY-SIX (26) WEST, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID FORTY-ACRE TRACT; THENCE SOUTH 49 YARDS; THENCE WEST 35 YARDS; THENCE NORTH 49 YARDS; THENCE EAST 35 YARDS TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND CONTAINING 35/100THS OF AN ACRE, MORE OR LESS; AND BEING THE SAME LAND AS THAT CONVEYED AND DESCRIBED IN BOOK D238 AT PAGE 375, LAND RECORDS OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS. ALSO DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 2, T. 9 S., R. 26 W., PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID NE1/4 OF THE NE1/4 SECTION 2, T. 9 S., R. 26 W., PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS; THENCE – SOUTH 49 YARDS; THENCE – WEST 35 YARDS; THENCE – NORTH 49 YARDS THENCE - EAST 35 YARDS TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; BASIS OF BEARINGS IS DEED CALL BEARING SOUTH ALONG WEST BOUNDARY LINE. THE ABOVE PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED PROPERTY BEING SURVEYED BY RICHARD V. HALL, JR. CONTAINS 0.354 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS; AND SUBJECT TO SUCH RIGHTS AS MAY BE VESTED IN PUBLIC FOR SWEET HOME ROAD AND ROY ROAD ALONG THE WEST AND SOUTH BOUNDARY LINES OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED 0.354 ACRE TRACT, AS DEPICTED IN A

SURVEY BY RICHARD V. HALL, AR RPLS #820, OF HALL SURVEYING & ENGINEERING, INC., DATED 11/22/10.

Along with a 2006 CMHM Manufactured Home with Serial No.: CLS104802TN, attached thereto, with the address of 552 Sweet Home Road, Nashville, Arkansas 71852.

On , October 1, 2018 a Mortgage was executed by Karen DeAnn White and Cecil Roy White, Jr., wife and husband, to Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., which was recorded on October 15, 2018 (Document #: 20184812), in the real estate records of Pike County, Arkansas. The party initiating foreclosure can be contacted at: Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., 500 Alcoa Trail, Maryville, Tennessee 37804, Phone (800) 970-7250.

Default has occurred in the payment of said indebtedness by the current owner(s) of the property, and the same is now therefore wholly due and owing. Lender intends to sell the above property to satisfy the obligation; and,

Tenants of the property may exist that claim an interest in the real property herein.

The undersigned is the attorney for the Lender and is acting on and with the consent of the Lender who is exercising its power of sale under Ark. Code Ann. § 18-50-115, which implies a power of sale in every mortgage of real property situated in this State that is duly acknowledged and recorded.

The sale is subject to any requirements and conditions set forth in the applicable recorded or unrecorded plat or bill(s) of assurance affecting the above real property; any restrictive covenants, easements, set back lines or encroachments; any unpaid taxes or special assessments; any statutory redemption rights of any governmental entity; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a UCC or fixture filing; and, to any matter that an accurate survey of the property might disclose. This property is being sold “as-is” with no representation as to the condition of any structure(s) thereon.

This foreclosure proceeding includes a manufactured home that is titled as personal property. Ark. Code Ann § 4-9-604 allows the foreclosing party to proceed against both the personal property and the real property in this manner.

The legal description contained herein controls and takes priority over any address used to the extent the legal description and address conflict.

Dated: July 11, 2025
Biles Wilson, PLLC, 457 Laurence Drive, Suite 195, Heath, Texas 75032
(214) 662-8456.
By: Jeremy R. Wilson, ABN 2000108

(p.n.a., 781w, 12,13,14,15)